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Hiram Ketchum.

MEMORIAL

OF

HIRAM WALBRIDGE.

"And thus he bore without abuse
The grand old name of Gentleman."

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MEMORIAL.

It is the month of December. There is a new-made grave at Glenwood Cemetery over which the snowflakes are weaving their wintry pall. Around this grave were recently assembled the President of the United States and his cabinet ministers, honorable senators and representatives in Congress, the General of the army, and many other persons eminent in various walks of life from different sections of the Union.

Children were there, whose blameless lives had felt the sunshine of a living presence they should behold no more; young men and maidens, pausing upon life's threshold and awed by this close look into the inevitable future: but, more than all, the middle-aged and old—strong men and tender women—who realized that one more link was broken in the chain which bound them to the things of life, stood reverently by, while all that remained of Hiram Walbridge passed from their sight forever.

The representatives of the power and dignity of the Republic united with those whose ties of family and friendship had been rudely sundered by the hand of death, in paying the last sad tribute of respect to a citizen of the Republic.

No official etiquette required their presence. He whom they mourned was carried to his tomb with no insignia of departed power or position. Instead of the trappings which add pomp and circumstance to the obsequies of the great, his coffin bore only woven chaplets of fragile flowers, tender emblems of the affection of them whose hands had gently laid them there.

Stern warriors who had faced the dangers of a hundred battle-fields, and whose fame belongs to history; great statesmen whose voices have given laws to their country and form to her destiny; friends from near and afar, young, middle-aged, and old—all were subdued in this never-to-be-forgotten presence.

It was the tribute of affection to gentleness—of friendship to true-heartedness—of power to intellect—of all to character.

Hiram Walbridge was a gentleman.

In all the relations of life he conducted himself with a due regard for the rights and feelings of others. As son, husband, brother, friend, counsellor, or companion he measured up to the best classic models. His parents did not precede him

so long ago but that his filial devotion to them in their old age is well remembered by many. His widow and brothers survive to bear their own testimony to his goodness. As a friend, he was true and brave—cautious in judgment, but fearless in action. In social intercourse he was cordial without familiarity, had rare tact, and was a most agreeable companion.

His abilities were such as must have commanded great influence in public position; and, as it was, achieved for him a national reputation without the adventitious aid of office. Although he had never held but two official positions in his life, and they both of a representative character, for a short period of time, yet he possessed great public influence.

It was the force of his character that raised him, without assistance, from modest beginnings, a character which was fairly illustrated by his friend Mr. Greeley when he stated to the President that General Walbridge came to New York a poor young man, but "when he was not worth five hundred dollars in the world, his word was worth as many thousand." His views of public duty were broad, comprehensive, and liberal, and no man appreciated more thoroughly than he the resources of our country and the possibilities of its future. His mind took real delight in contemplating them, and his tongue grew eloquent with

enthusiasm as he enlarged upon them. The building of a railway to the Pacific Ocean was a project that enlisted his earnest support long before its feasibility was conceded by many, and he not only went to San Francisco in 1853 to attend the first convention held in furtherance of that object, but was, if not the first, among the first of its champions in Congress.

As a merchant, he paid great attention to the laws of trade, and espoused with zeal whatever tended to develop American commerce. He encouraged, by all the means within his reach, increased facilities of transit and transportation, and was the firm friend of internal improvements long before the expanding system of to-day was thought of. Even that system was in his apprehension far behind the requirements of the times, and its own capacity for improvement. Among his favorite themes, was the building of grand trunk railways for freight, connecting the interior with the seaboard, upon which, at uniform rate of speed, producers and buyers could ship the teeming produce of the country in cars of their own.

Nor did he confine his interest to internal facilities of commerce alone, but in his short Congressional career he introduced measures for the protection of American vessels on the high seas, for the improvement of the navy, and the enlargement of the rights of neutrals in time of war.

He studied with care the policies of foreign powers, and made himself acquainted with their motives and objects, always manifesting great interest in the rivalries of the mighty contestants for the trade and dominion of Asia and the Orient.

He endeavored to elevate and dignify his calling as a merchant, by identifying it with the progressive movements of the age, helped to organize and utilize commercial conventions, and projected the National Board of Trade.

His talents and energy carried him into assured position early in life, and his name had so long been before the people in conjunction with the movements above mentioned, that when he died they were surprised at the statement of his age. He had not yet completed his fiftieth year. When this was told General Sherman, that distinguished hero exclaimed, "Why, he has accomplished more in that time than most men could in a hundred years."

All over the Union General Walbridge has friends, and it is thought that a short memoir, setting forth the chief points of his life and character, may not prove unacceptable to them, while it may serve to commemorate a name little likely to fade from their recollection. One who had the honor to enjoy his confidence, who cherished his friendship, and who received his last letter inviting him to a trip across the continent, proposed

for the very day of his decease, takes a melancholy pleasure in contributing at least so much to his memory.

Hiram Walbridge was born at Athaca, New York, on the second day of February, 1821. His father, Chester Walbridge, and his mother, Mary Walbridge, were both of New England origin, and General Walbridge, who fought at the battle of Bennington, was his ancestor. His parents moved to Ohio when Hiram was quite young, and at the age of eighteen he entered the Ohio University, when a characteristic incident, however, soon terminated his collegiate career. Although of Democratic tendencies, he had, from personal intercourse, become warmly attached to General William Henry Harrison, who was selected as the Whig candidate for the Presidency in 1840. With Hiram's warm and impulsive nature it was easier to resist party than personal attachments, so he espoused the cause of the Hero of Tippecanoe, and accepted an invitation to speak in his behalf at a political meeting. This was contrary to school discipline, and therefore forbidden; but Hiram complied with his engagement, and took the consequences. In the midst of his speech, while addressing himself with great earnestness to his audience, he was informed that he had been expelled for disobedience. This was a hard blow,

but it caused no outward perturbation. A trait inherited from his mother, and which in after life often manifested itself in the midst of trial and suffering, stood him in need here. He had great fortitude, and would have heard far worse news without a sign of dismay. He only threw more fervor into his speech, more eloquence into his language, and carried his audience to the height of enthusiasm for their candidate. They greeted the young orator with a perfect ovation. He went back to the University, packed his trunk, and returned home, but afterwards finished his education elsewhere.

At the age of fourteen, in consequence of difficulty in procuring a teacher, he took charge of the district school for about six months, without compensation. He studied law with Judge Tilden, and was admitted to the bar, but did not follow the legal profession as a business. His residence during this period was at Toledo, Ohio, where one of his brothers now resides, and where General Walbridge maintained an interest until his death. He was elected alderman of that city; and in 1844, he was commissioned Brigadier General of the Ohio militia, whence the title by which he has been so generally distinguished.

He took an active part in the presidential canvass of 1844, advocating the election of James K. Polk, the Democratic nominee, and became

very popular as a speaker. During the Mexican war, which shortly afterwards took place, he was tendered a commission as colonel, but declined it for the purpose of entering into business in New York. In this he met with extraordinary success, and established an enviable reputation. He was an excellent judge of men, and confident of his own powers. These qualities rapidly enlarged his acquaintance and gave force to his action. There was no hesitation about him. What he did, he did with all his might, determined to bring it to a successful issue. His habits were methodical, and he attended carefully to the details of his business, but his mind was of that scope that whatever he undertook must have magnitude.

At no period of his life did he lose his interest in public affairs in this country or in Europe. The struggles of the Hungarians and French Republicans in 1848 awakened his liveliest sympathies, as the annals of the times bear ample testimony. General Walbridge was a warm friend of Kossuth, and remembered that when that great leader and his fellow exiles had a price set upon their heads, the Sultan of Turkey gave them hospitable welcome at the risk of a war with his powerful foes, Russia and Austria.

In 1851 he visited Europe, and represented the American minister by request, at the entertainment given by the leading public men of England

to Kossuth, to whom General Walbridge presented a copy of the Constitution of the United States and of Washington's Farewell Address; the latter of which became a fatal gift because of the attempt of the Hungarian leader to indicate a different foreign policy from that upheld by Washington.

General Walbridge availed himself of the favorable opportunities then offered to become acquainted with the leading statesmen and men of note in Europe, and to observe the practical workings of monarchical institutions. His experiences abroad during this very interesting period, covering the events of Louis Napoleon's *coup d'état*, were varied and in some instances remarkable, forming the groundwork of many an entertaining conversation with friends in after life. Among other incidents, perhaps the most exciting was that in which he took the American mode of compelling a fraudulent agent in London to deliver up a very large amount of money belonging to him. He had engaged as secretary and business man a former private secretary of King Louis Philippe, whose keen eye for his own interest rather blinded him to that of his employer. This man having in his possession, with evident intent to abscond, one hundred thousand dollars belonging to General Walbridge, the latter waited in his room until midnight, captured him, locked the

door, and put the key in his pocket, and then, with revolver in hand, demanded settlement or death. The man succumbed. The moral courage requisite to the performance of such an act in London, with a subtle, accomplished, and extraordinary antagonist, can hardly be appreciated without reciting details which cannot find room here. There were probably very few of General Walbridge's friends who knew of this incident or who credited him with the possession of those traits of character necessary to its performance. Beneath an amiable exterior there lay in him a strength of will which few possess.

In 1853 he was elected as a Representative in Congress from New York city, and immediately thereafter took a trip to California, returning time enough to take his seat, with a fund of information regarding the Pacific coast, in addition to that acquired abroad. His representative career was honorable and successful. Every measure calculated to promote the commerce of the country or develop its resources received his support, and he upheld the Union in its entirety with undivided heart. He was eminently patriotic at all times, and his devotion to the Republic was not mere lip service, but heart sentiment as well as fixed principle. With such views, he of course sustained the credit of the government.

When the Crimean war broke out, involving the

three great powers of England, France, and Russia, as well as Turkey, General Walbridge thought the time had come for the United States to declare the rights of neutrals, and he introduced in the House of Representatives resolutions setting forth that "The United States as a maritime power, having neutral rights to maintain, deem it proper to declare and make known that every American vessel engaged in the lawful pursuits of commerce is held by this government to be protected by the flag which covers her," and that "any attempt to enforce an absolute right of imprisonment, secret detention or irritation in regard to such American ship, will be regarded as an act of hostility towards the United States, and just cause of war."

The adoption of this policy by our government would have obviated the unfortunate affair of the San Jacinto, and perhaps have permanently enlarged the rights of neutrals, in which we are as much, if not more, interested than any other nation. Such rights have certainly been since assumed against us, and there is no good reason why the United States should continue to operate within narrower restrictions than other powers. Time, therefore, only served to strengthen General Walbridge in the principles he then advocated, and it is probable they will yet become established international law.

With a view of making the United States as powerful on the ocean as they confessedly are on land, General Walbridge elaborated a plan for making the commercial marine an adjunct to the naval forces of the country, by organizing what he aptly termed the "Militia of the Seas." This measure he proposed in 1856, in a speech delivered at Tammany Hall, and it is an evidence alike of his clearness of perception and the hold he had upon public opinion at that time, that although he held no official position through which to enforce his views, they were copied with approbation by journals of every shade of political opinion in America, were editorially discussed and adopted as in a large measure applicable to England by the London Times, and furnished the suggestion for several salutary reforms in the British navy.

In this speech, which was forcible and statesmanlike throughout, he developed a plan of naval reorganization which, if it had been adopted, would have utterly prevented the destruction of American commerce by European privateers during the late rebellion. It would have Americanized our navy, and infused into it some of the progress and vitality characteristic of our republican institutions. The following extract will serve to indicate the general purport of his views on that subject :—

"Suggestions that seek to make radical changes

should always be advanced with hesitation and distrust; yet all great improvements in government have heretofore sprung from the experience of the people themselves, who are usually in advance of their rulers in whatever most concerns their own prosperity and welfare. The General Government should hold out some inducements to our great commercial marine to aid in protecting itself. Under the sanction of law, with ample guards and restrictions, there should be organized a militia navy, an arm of defence corresponding to that employed by the Government in the land service, under our enrolled militia system, by which ship-owners should receive encouragement and aid by law in construction of their vessels, so as to make them capable of bearing guns if required in the service of their country. The captains and subordinate officers should be commissioned in the name of the General Government, upon some equitable plan that will give them rank and emolument in proportion to the demands upon their time and service in the new capacity of representing the naval power of the Union. The humblest youth who enters as a cabin-boy, or in the lowest capacity as a seaman, should be educated and trained in his honorable though adventurous and dangerous profession, that not only in the navy proper, but in this new service, the naval powers of the Union will be represented.

"Our noble Empire State, second to none, but foremost of all, this great commercial emporium, the seat of energy, enterprise, and commercial power, are felt and acknowledged throughout the world, have a right to be heard, upon this, as upon all questions affecting the trade and prosperity of the Union. New York demands the recognition and absolute immunity from such a detention of our flag upon the high seas; that her commerce and expanding trade should be left unshackled by unwise restraints of legislation; and then, with her resources in every department of industry, in agriculture, in manufactures, in commerce, and trade, she will vindicate her pre-eminence and power in the great family circle of free and independent States that constitute our National Union."

When General Walbridge entered Congress he was a comparatively wealthy man, and felt justified in withdrawing from business so as to devote his whole attention to his representative duties. He intrusted the bulk of his fortune in the shape of ready money without security into the hands of a friend, in whose judgment and integrity he reposed implicit confidence. Before his first term expired he lost every dollar of it, and felt compelled to abandon politics for business again. Hence, when the Democrats of his district tendered him a renomination he declined it, and

renewed business immediately to endeavor to recover from his serious losses. He was not the man to be disheartened, he never for a moment desponded; and before a great while he was more prosperous than ever.

Such was his public spirit, however, that while he felt constrained to decline official position, he took an active part in all the great movements of his day. Having again secured leisure by assured success, he gave up a great deal of his time to the maintainance of the Union, before and during the rebellion. He was a supporter of Stephen A. Douglas for the Presidency in the election of 1860, and fully sympathized in that distinguished leader's devotion to the Union. When war actually came he assisted in organizing the War Democracy, and arraying them on the side of the administration. He comprehended the issues involved and the real magnitude of the struggle, and at once advocated putting the country on a war footing for not less than three years, with an enrolment of six hundred thousand men. Experience demonstrated the wisdom of his suggestions; but few were prepared to adopt them when first put forth in May, 1861. President Lincoln, with whom he established intimate and confidential relations, acknowledged his indebtedness to General Walbridge in a note dated November 18, 1861, not only for the suggestions of

largely increased forces before his own mind became convinced of their necessity, but also for first pointing out to him the strategic importance of Port Royal and Beaufort. Through the influence thus established he secured the acceptance of ten Massachusetts regiments, and a battery of artillery, when it was feared they might prove superfluous, for which he afterwards received public thanks. General Cameron, Secretary of War, formally tendered him a commission as Brigadier-General, which he declined; and President Lincoln personally offered to make him a Major-General, and this he also declined. But his labor was unremitting in his chosen field of operations, that of keeping public opinion up to the support of the government during its long and arduous struggle. He was an effective speaker, and in the darkest days of 1862, his voice was heard at the Cooper Institute declaring that New York would never abandon the government till, after quelling treason at home, it could present itself as a great, powerful, and united nation, capable of commanding and enforcing respect the world over. He travelled from State to State, kept up an extensive correspondence with governors and leading men, and gave his whole heart and time to his country, until victory finally perched upon the banner of an undivided republic.

Regarding the rebellion as a revolutionary

movement in behalf of slavery, and emancipation as the only just solution of the war problem, he became allied with the Republican party, and an advocate of reconstruction on a free-labor basis, instead of restoration on the basis proclaimed by President Johnson, which would have left the laboring element of the South at the mercy of the landed and privileged classes.

He advocated General U. S. Grant's election to the Presidency, and was a warm personal friend of that gentleman, as well as earnest supporter of his administration to the day of his death.

In the summer of 1865, General Walbridge made a tour of the west, and was received more like an eminent public personage than a private citizen. He discussed questions of commerce and internal improvement at various cities, and the press reproduced them and commented upon them at as great length and with as much care as is usually bestowed upon state papers of importance. He was elected President of the International Commercial Convention, which assembled at Detroit on the 11th July, 1865, and was prominent in every similar convention except the last held since that time. An able sketch of General Walbridge, which appeared in Hunt's Merchant's Magazine of January, 1866, concludes with the following just tribute to his character:—

"Imperfect as this sketch necessarily is, enough

has been given to show the genius of the man. He is, perhaps, one of the best instances of American versatility now living. He would have made a good lawyer, but could never consent to be a pettifogger; he would aspire to be a statesman, but would refuse to be a mere politician; he is a merchant, but would not readily consent to transact the petty details of an insignificant business. He loves to plan on a large scale, to do things boldly, and he would rage in inactivity. He is jealous of his honor, and despises meanness. Possessing a large social nature, liberal, ambitious of honorable distinction, he is an earnest friend, a genial companion, and a public-spirited citizen, and active in every enterprise which he undertakes. He is in the prime of life, and, if spared, will yet occupy a prominent place in our country, having already succeeded in identifying himself closely with its history."

The last sentence of this paragraph was a prophecy, only limited by the two little words "if spared." Was there presentiment in this? Who knows? Alas! he was not "spared."

Just as the hour had struck for its fulfilment—just as they who knew him most, and therefore loved him best, felt sure that the time had come for him to exert his best influence on the affairs of the country where it would be felt, the messenger came whom all men must obey. It is useless to

dwell on the never-dying theme, "What might have been." It was not!

Let us so live that when the inevitable hour comes and we are called, we too may go to our last resting-place, honored and loved, because we are like him.

J. J. S.

Baltimore, December, 1870.

The Obsequies.

The following account of the obsequies of General WALBRIDGE is taken from the "National Republican" newspaper of Washington, D. C., dated December 12th, 1870:—

THE funeral of General HIRAM WALBRIDGE took place on Saturday afternoon, according to announcement, from the family homestead at Ingleside to the cemetery of Glenwood.

Throughout the forenoon, carriages from the city kept rolling out Fourteenth Street, past Columbia College, and into the beautiful grounds that surround the Ingleside mansion. There was a something meet and consonant with the mournful character of the occasion in the heaps of dead and dying leaves that lined the winding avenues and strewed the spreading lawns; and in the bleakness of the unfoliaged trees and the solemn stillness of the scene the house of death appeared to stand amid appropriate surroundings. Ingleside, in its summer glories, is the chief rural gem that encircles the city of Washington.

In the ample space between the high pine trees and near the stables, the carriages were parked, while the services in the house were being performed.

DISTINGUISHED ATTENDANCE.

Carriage after carriage drove up to the pillared portico in rapid succession, and of those who descended were the President and Secretaries Fish, Boutwell, Delano, Belknap, Robeson, and Attorney-General Ackerman; Senators Sherman and Thurman, of Ohio; Fenton, of New York; Harlan, of Iowa; Representative Cobb, Treasurer Spinner, Colonel H. D. Faulkner, and General Alfred Pleasonton, of New York; Hon. J. J. Stewart, of Baltimore; Colonel John T. Pickett, of Kentucky; Judge Watterson, of Tennessee; D. P. Brown and family, Mrs. Dr. Gurley, B. T. Swartz and family, Governor Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, and Mrs. General Sherman.

Col. A. H. Jackson, who married a step-daughter of the General's, attended to the duty of receiving those who came, and to the general superintendence of the family arrangements, in which he was perfectly successful. Of the family and relatives who were present, were Messrs. Horace S. and Heman D. Walbridge, brothers of the General, Mr. Charles B. Blake and wife, Dr. Philips and wife. Mrs. Walbridge, dressed in deep mourning,

was supported throughout the sorrowing ceremony by the brothers of the deceased. All the rooms upon the first floor were thrown open, and every seat was occupied by the time the funeral services were begun. In a carpeted, richly furnished room, off the vestibule, the remains of the General were laid out.

THE REMAINS.

The body was inclosed in one of Fisk's metallic caskets, in imitation of rosewood, heavily mounted with silver, and bearing the following inscription: "Hiram Walbridge, died December 6, aged 49 years," and was placed in the saloon parlor. The lid of the coffin was one mass of flowers, the gifts of General N. P. Banks and others; Hon. Horace Greeley also laid a beautiful floral testimonial at the foot of the coffin of his friend. In the same room was a full-length likeness of the deceased, taken in the crimson flush of his hopeful and brilliant life.

At one o'clock the order of ceremonies began by the entrance from an adjacent room into the one where the corpse was lying of the following pall-bearers: General Sherman, Horace Greeley, Secretary Boutwell, Senators Nye, Wilson, and Fenton, Speaker Blaine, General Butler, Judge

Casey, Representatives Banks and Peck, and Collector Murphy, of New York.

IN THE CHAMBER OF MOURNING.

The President, Cabinet, and pall-bearers, together with the family and relatives of the deceased, were seated in a kind of semicircle in the saloon parlor, at the head of which, near appropriately draped tables, stood the officiating clergyman, Rev. Mr. Buck, pastor of Rock Creek church, and Rev. Dr. Samson. Mr. Buck read the beautiful service for the dead of the Episcopal Church, and was followed by Dr. Samson with the following discourse:—

THE SERMON.

Funeral gatherings have a great influence on our character and life. When one of a family, or any circle of associates, falls in death, all pause and gather for an hour about the deserted frame that held his spirit. In halls of legislation, in court rooms, in chambers of commerce, men in every walk of life think and speak as they do nowhere else. The earthly life, the human virtues, of the departed come up in a review that is impartial, and therefore just, while it is generous.

Then, too, the mind of every man looks forward. The world beyond the grave becomes real and palpably impressive. We speak, we think of the abode of the spirits of men, and of the home to which the departed is gone. We become sincere then; scepticism, if ever cherished, vanishes as a state of mind as unfounded as it is unnatural. How these stirring convictions, in the minds of us all, were realized in the utterance of the profoundly wise King of Israel, twenty-eight centuries ago, in the words: "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting. This is the end of all men. The living will lay it to heart; and by the sadness of the countenance the heart will be made better."

This thought in the house of mourning, around the lifeless form of a fallen comrade, turns towards the spirit's condition; while we remember the departed and dimly imagine his present state. Then our judgment controls for a time our impulses; and we feel that to be decided in our religious convictions and actions, is now the only important interest. In religious conviction, it should be recognized, men of true thought preserve the same reticence as on other matters of profound and vitally important consideration. It is only to an intimate in the same line of study or occupation, that the enterprising merchant, the judicious statesman, opens the secrets of his deep conviction. It is only to his or her physician or pastor that the private sufferings and sorrows of those who seem to be free from all trouble are known. And here one of the most important of practical questions is pressed on our consideration.

There is a power at work in our land, mightier than all the intellectual and moral influences that ever controlled a great people. It never was imagined in ancient India, Greece, or Rome; and it has been but partially known in the history of modern Europe. It is the profound conviction of the mass of leading minds among us, that there is a truth and a grace in the religion of Jesus Christ, never yet realized in any of its professed adhe-

rents. It has ever been a marked feature in the history of this Divine gift to man, even from its first announcement, that among its most intelligent and weighty promoters have been the men who never openly professed the Christian faith. When John first preached repentance and faith in Him to come, we read of Herod, the thoughtful though impulsive tetrarch of Galilee, that he "feared John, knowing that he was a just man and a holy; and he observed him; and when he heard him he did many things and heard him gladly." And who can forget that the chief mourners, the pall-bearers of our Redeemer himself, were two Senators of Israel: Nicodemus, who came to converse with him at night at the very opening of his ministry, and who defended him under Jewish law when he was arraigned; and with him, Joseph of Arimathea, "a disciple of Jesus, though secretly"? What a scene was that—what a profound testimony—when, though his simpler-minded and sincere disciples forsook him through fear, these noble senators, who never had professed their faith in him, bore his Divine form in the dim evening twilight to its resting-place! It is the more instructive because it was a true foreshadowing of what has ever since been true.

John, who wrote after the Jewish State had fallen, and its chief families perished, and who

alone mentions what otherwise would have been a betrayal of confidence—John writes, "many of the chief rulers also believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him." Why did the guiding spirit prompt the beloved disciple in his old age to reveal this fact, unless it were to intimate the truth, that the hesitation which constrains men of the most profound convictions, who never profess the Christian faith, arises from that keen sense of responsibility, which is all the more fearful of personal assumption, because of the manifold imperfection of those claiming to represent religious sentiment? Here a long array of facts in Christian history comes up in review; while, too, their deep principle assumes an aspect which in a land like ours should be duly weighed, and be joyfully accepted.

When the great apostle of Jesus proclaimed the gospel of Christ, the leaders in thought and action were his most enthusiastic hearers. Sergius Paulus, the Roman governor of Cyprus, "a prudent man," sent for him, and "desired to hear the word of God more perfectly;" Dionysius, the Athenian senator, "believed and clave to him;" Felix, the governor of Judea, wished a "more perfect knowledge" of his message, and when he heard him again, he trembled, and determined at a future season to follow his teaching; while King Agrippa, the able Jewish historian, as well as Roman states-

man, declared, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

So, too, all along down the history of the advancing nations who received the religion of Christ, what mean such examples as shine out on its every page! Constantine, led as a youth to believe in the divine origin of the Christian faith, because when his father, the emperor, indignant one day at the corruption of some of his officers, demanded of a priest of the old religion, "Where are the men that can be trusted?" the honest reply was wrung from trembling lips, "The Christians are the trusty men." Constantine, studying Christ's life and teachings till he embraced them; advocating their claim all his lifetime, yet scandalized beyond measure by the bitter contest of the opposing parties in the church, never professes his faith till just before his death. What, again, are we to judge as to Grotius, called "latitudinarian" in the times of Calvinistic controversy, and yet spending his old age in writing the most complete demonstration of the divine doctrines of the Christian religion that the world perhaps possesses! What, indeed, shall we infer from the spirit of men like Rousseau, opposing, not Christianity, but the corruptions of its professors; even exclaiming, "Socrates died indeed as a philosopher, Jesus Christ died as a God"! Its meaning is learned in the counter fact of the power wielded by such

sincere and heavenly spirits, after the likeness of Paul the apostle, as Chrysostom at the Roman Capitol, and of Fenelon at the French court. And where shall we stop in this enumeration? If any centre of mighty interests has ever fully attested this important fact in history, it is our city; conspicuous for the reality of the religious influences which it has ever witnessed. Never perhaps was there seen such a testimonial of the inherent truth of the gospel as this; that, in a land where the church is entirely severed from the State, and where no motive but a man's own sincere conviction can influence his act, scarcely one of the great leaders in American society is to be found who has not in word and act reverenced in his active life the religion of Jesus; while in the evening of their days the majority of our chief magistrates, our great statesmen, and our men of thought and enterprise have publicly professed their faith by union with the Christian church.

Perhaps now the principle which underlies this great fact deserves our consideration. The religion of Jesus Christ makes all outward forms but symbols of an inward spirit. What an announcement that of Christ's, "The kingdom of heaven is within you"! His sermon on the Mount demands a righteousness greater than that which any man ever possessed; even "the righteousness of the kingdom of God" itself. It demands that we be

"perfect even as our Heavenly Father is perfect." Who can attain, who has possessed in the past or can aspire to reach in the future, that perfection of angels which all in heaven possess! Where is there any hope but in the gospel revelation; which proclaims trust in the merits of our Divine Redeemer for the blotting out of transgressions in the past, and reliance on the Divine Spirit's power "to work in us," in the future, "to will and to do all God's good pleasure"! Is it possible that a thoughtful man, looking forward to the world of spirits, can imagine "any other name under heaven among men whereby we must be saved"? Men that think at all, men that have any trust at all, find this hope to be an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast!

Is it to be wondered, now, that in our national religious life, in our social, domestic, and individual intercourse, all should find, that, while many with perhaps too little thought profess themselves disciples of Christ, very many with perhaps *too much* thought of their own insufficiency, never, until in ripe old age, can avow their simple faith in Jesus Christ! Is it wonder that so many great, earnest, enthusiastic leaders in those enterprises which develop the *fruits* of Christ's religion give a testimony far surpassing that of many professing their devotion; their failing, among a race all at fault, being this, that they never can bring

themselves to profess so high a calling as that of a complete Christian consecration.

May not such a survey be timely in this house of mourning? May not its consideration make all our hearts better? May it not prompt a new conviction that greater fidelity to our duty of love to God and our fellow is a present demand, and that true repentance for past neglect and humble faith in God's grace should be our immediate resort?

General Hiram Walbridge, born in February, 1821, not yet attained to fifty years, though a native of New York, reared in Ohio, then practising his profession and attaining his wealth and honor in two distant States, has been especially an esteemed and admired citizen of our District. He is, therefore, known to us, and his character has been deeply read. His intellectual power was of a high order; his limited early education, his completion of his law studies at nineteen, his being chosen representative in New York at the age of thirty-two, his conception in advance of his age of the Pacific railroad, his selection as president of the first great commercial conventions of our country, his wonderfully comprehensive grasp of national issues, and the heroism with which he sacrificed himself during his months of failing health to great public benefactions—all these reveal the man of no ordinary compass of mind. His universal courtesy and

urbanity, his finish and power as a popular speaker, all spoke of the man of true culture. His devotion to the interests of the capital of his country, a city which bears the name of its adored founder, whose prosperity he justly conceived was allied to the nation's reverence for the father of his country, his charity abounding in every public benefaction, all spoke of a great heart and noble soul.

And what thought he of that relation higher than any earthly, and of that world of purity for which no man in himself is prepared? It was revealed and made fully manifest to those who knew him well and watched at his last bedside.

In his mature life at Washington, General Walbridge always spoke with enthusiasm of his esteem for Rev. Dr. Gurley, the pastor of his revered mother. No man could really admire the preaching and personal acquaintance of such a man and such a preacher as Dr. Gurley, who had not a deeper love for the simple gospel of Christ than a mere outward profession sometimes proclaims. General Walbridge was always fond of conversation in private on the subject of personal religious duty. His last hours showed what convictions always dwelt as a hidden fountain in his breast, ready to break forth when their depths should be stirred and the vent be opened. When he had passed through the excruciating agony of

surgical operations for the acute disease which wore out his life in a few short days, his Christian profession was as manly as his heroic meeting of suffering.

Refusing to take chloroform, he looked on calmly at the mutilation of the surgeon's knife which made others shudder. When convinced by his own feelings and the assurance of his physician that he must soon sink under the exhaustion of pain, he called for pen and paper, dictated his last will, and then signed it. His duty to his family and the world discharged, all his thought turned upwards. To his wife, who spoke of his apparent approaching death, and asked forgiveness for any unintentional fault, he exclaimed, "O, it is I that need forgiveness of God." When asked if he believed in Jesus as his Saviour, he said, "Yes, I do believe in Him; I have been thinking much during the time of my sickness about death and of preparation for it." Those words are the sincere expression of convictions that control thousands of men like him. They are testimony to a power which will save our country, or any land whose leaders are controlled not by a profession reluctantly demanded, but by a faith that all through manhood sways them as by an invisible bond.

Let the lessons of our dear departed friend's death go with us from this place.

He has fallen, and we, too, shall soon go. Let those inward convictions of our religious need, and of the world's only hope, be cherished. Let us never do thoughtless despite to the spirit of grace, the sincere convictions of childhood.

He has left a void by his decease. There is a vacancy behind, a desolation in the home. It is a void the world can never fill. Thank God, as we all grow older we look less to the world for companionship and support. Thank God, there is a friend closer than a brother.

He has left a lesson. We love too much this earth, and so often lose the object of our pursuit. How many destroy their own power by the very weight of care and the strain of noble endeavor. No end but a rare one can justify self-immolation. Let a true wisdom so temper our ambition that "our moderation" shall shine as a chief virtue.

We all need a guidance and support that come from One higher than we. What a boon in the words, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." May that wisdom from above, that Kingdom of Heaven, be within us.

The following letter of General Walbridge illustrates his attachment to his parents' pastor:—

Ingleside, D. C., Nov. 26, 1860.

My dear Doctor:—

On behalf of our dear mother and brothers, I cordially thank you for the many kindnesses you extended to father during his recent fatal illness.

The testimony you have borne to his many virtues will always be gratefully remembered by all of us, since you had ample opportunities to know the purity, the gentleness, and the integrity and uprightness of his life.

That happiness and health may always be yours and that of your estimable family, is our sincere wish.

Truly,

H. WALBRIDGE.

Rev. Dr. Gurley.

TO THE GRAVE.

The services concluded, the funeral *cortege* moved off in the following order: In front two mounted policemen, carriages containing the undertakers, body-bearers (eight in number), clergy, pall-bearers, hearse, relatives, President of the United States, Cabinet officers, Senators, members of Congress, and friends of the family. The procession moved down the road to Fourteenth Street as far as K, and thence by K Street and Lincoln Avenue to Glenwood Cemetery.

The grave was six feet deep, walled with brick, and when the coffin was lowered down to its final resting-place, smooth stone slabs were placed above and closely cemented together. The funeral service was very feelingly read by Rev. Mr. Buck. The General was laid with his feet to his father's grave, in a spacious lot on Grand Avenue, near the centre of the cemetery. Here both his parents take their eternal repose, and here the son has been laid to rest after a useful, honorable, but sadly premature existence.

Over his grave friends and admirers paid their last sad tribute of regard, and political opponents were there, who, coming together in dissension, went away in harmony.

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Crawfordsville, Pa.
March - April 1995